

{aid at once, however, that though Disraeli ran through ;he whole gamut of the debtor's customary experience, ivas guilty of all the improvidence to which embarrassment surely leads, submitted perforce to all the humilia-:ions which it carries in its train, was skilled in all the subterfuges by which debtors commonly evade the .mportunity of greedy and exacting creditors, and too Dften caused annoyance to obliging friends by reluctant Dut unavoidable disappointment of their hopes, nothing i;hat seriously touches his character is to be deduced from, bhe records as they have been preserved ; and in the matter of records Disraeli showed himself splendidly indifferent to posterity or splendidly confident as to its verdict. In his career from beginning to end there Is no trace of any money transaction that will not bear investigation, and if we waive the inevitably squalid details of a life of embarrassment, nothing that infringes bhe code of 'the man of honour ' or 'the gentleman.' It might even be urged that his debts themselves had a certain disciplinary value. A well-known passage in *Tancred*) if we allow for some whimsical exaggeration, reflects undoubtedly a personal feeling of Disraeli's.

Fakredeem was fond of his debts; they were the source indeed of Ms only real excitement, and he was grateful to them for their stirring powers. The usurers of Syria are as adroit and callous as those of all other countries, and possess no doubt all those repulsive qualities which are the consequence of an habitual control over every generous emotion. But, instead of viewing them with feelings of vengeance or abhorrence, 3?akredeem studied them unceasingly with a fine and profound investigation, and found in their society a deep psychological interest. . . . 'What should I be without my debts?' he would sometimes exclaim; 'dear companions of my life that never desert me! All my knowledge of human nature is owing to them: it is in managing my affairs that I have sounded the depths of the human heart, recognised all the combinations of human character, developed my own powers, and mastered the resources of others. What expedient in negotiation is unknown to me ? What degree of endurance have I not calculated ? What play of the countenance have